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Olsons Reveal That Ford Told C.I.A. to Yield Data

By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

President Ford has instructed the Central Intelligence Agency to make available to the family of Frank R. Olson "all relevant materials and documents" concerning his death and the agency's LSD drug experiment in which he participated shortly before his death, family members said yesterday.

A spokesman for the President confirmed the family's report of the unusual step and said that a meeting between the Olsons and the C.I.A. had been scheduled for tomorrow.

David Kairys, one of the family's lawyers in its intended suit against the C.I.A., said "lots of documents have been destroyed but I have the word of the President's counsel that we will be shown everything that exists."

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief William J. Averill, the commanding officer of detectives in Manhattan, said he had started a "full-scale" investigation into the death of Dr. Olson 22 years ago in a plunge from a 10th floor room of the Statler Hotel, asserting that he was "going to check every angle."

Family members said that in a meeting with President Ford on Monday at the White House in which he expressed his apologies for the death, the President also characterized the incident as "a horrible episode in American history" that was "inexcusable and unforgivable."

Dr. Olson's widow, Alice, said the session with the President was "quite a moving experience because it was something that was very genuine."

Eric Olson, 30 years old, the eldest of the four Olson children, said President Ford had appeared "very somber, very serious," and quoted Mr. Ford as saying "He knew that nothing could be done to totally make up for what had happened, but to whatever extent we could be repaid for our suffering, he felt that we should be."

It was only a month ago

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with the publication of the report of the Rockefeller commission, that the family learned that their father and husband, a senior biochemist doing top-secret research for the Army at Fort Detrick, Md., was one of four or five Government scientists who had been given LSD in after-dinner drinks during a "technical meeting" at a mountain resort in Maryland in November 1953.

Previously, they had known only that Dr. Olson had behaved strangely after the conference, had been escorted to New York by Government officials for psychiatric examinations and then "jumped or fell" from the hotel window.

With the new information, the family decided to file suit against the C.I.A. for what it felt was Dr. Olson's "wrongful death."

Claim To Be Discussed

The deputy Presidential press secretary, John W. Hushen, said yesterday that the family and its lawyers had an appointment to "discuss their claim" with officials of the Department of Justice on Friday.

At one point during the 17-minute meeting with the President, Eric Olson said his mother told Mr. Ford she though it was "very good that in this country an American family can hold a press conference and get a response from the press and the President of the United States for its grievance," and that Mr. Ford replied, "Yes, it's a great country for that and many other reasons, but that does not right the wrong that's been done to you."

Mr. Hushen said that no transcript of the meeting had been made, but that based on what the President had said privately to his staff, the Olsons' report of the session appeared to be accurate.

Deputy Chief Averill said he had begun his investigation by reviewing police department records and talking to "prior and present" members of the force.

He said he expected to talk with everyone who had been in any way involved in the incident and that it was likely he would send men to California to interview Robert V. Lashbrook, the former C.I.A. employe who had been sharing the room with Mr. Olson the night of the death.

Robert M. Morgenthau, the Manhattan District Attorney, who cold not be reached yesterday, said earlier that he was trying to determine whether whether the statute of limitations had run out in the Olson case. But Deputy Chief Averill said that "if there's any suggestion of homicide — and I'm not saying there is — there's no statute of limitations."